IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Bark Lake Cultural Developments

Oct/Nov '25

Bark Lake Cultural Developments

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Carol 705-457-8438

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of
Minden Hills Council

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Mary Riter Hamilton, Canada's 1st female battlefield artist, helped the country 'grieve mass loss'. The painter produced the largest known collection of First World War art.

"I cannot talk. I can only paint." Mary Riter Hamilton painted the battlefields after the First World War as a testament to its devastating cost. She would suffer mental and physical illnesses as a result of the work she did, documenting the experiences of Canadian soldiers.

Born in 1867 in Teeswater, Ontario, Mary was a rising artist when the First World War broke out. She petitioned the Canadian War Memorials Fund to go to the front lines as a war artist but was denied.

Mary Riter Hamilton, Ypres in 1919. 'I wish I could transport you here, for one must see it all in order to realize just what this terrible war has done,' the artist wrote in a letter to her friend in June 1919. (Antony d'Ypres, In Flanders Fields Museum)

"The idea of sending a woman to portray war was in many ways unthinkable," said Brian Foss, a professor of art history at Carleton University in Ottawa. While a number of women artists were commissioned to create art on the homefront, "sending a woman to Europe during the First World War would have been just beyond the pale." But Hamilton persisted, and left for France and Belgium during the armistice in 1919.

Once the war ended, the Amputation Club of British Columbia (now the War Amps) commissioned her to paint the battlefields. Producing some 350 works in three years, she faced harsh conditions and saw the devastation of the conflict firsthand. She donated most of her paintings to the National Archives of Canada (now Library and Archives Canada), not wanting to sell her work. Her working conditions led to poor health, and she died in 1954 in relative obscurity and poverty.

For more information about Mary Riter Hamilton:
https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/mary-riter-hamilton
https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/first-world-war-wwi
https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/war-artists
https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/mary-riter-hamilton-canada-s-1st-female-battlefield-artist-helped-the-country-

Just after the First World War, artist Mary Riter Hamilton documented what she saw in the former war zones of France and Belgium. Here she is at her easel at the market square in Ypres, Belgium, in 1919. (Antony d'Ypres, In Flanders Fields Museum)

Copied verbatim from Canada's History magazine **A soldier carved his memories into his First World War weapon**
Written by Annick Desmarais — Posted Dec 23, 2022
https://www.canadashistory.ca/explore/military-war/lee-enfield-rifle

This 1916 Lee-Enfield No. 1 MK III, .303-calibre rifle was nicknamed Rosalie by the soldier who carried it, Henri-Paul Lecorre. In 1915, Lecorre volunteered with the Canadian Expeditionary Force's 22nd Battalion, Canada's only entirely francophone infantry regiment. When the nations of Europe went to war on Aug 4, 1914, Canada — whose foreign relations were determined by the British Empire — also joined the conflict.

In response to popular demand, a combat unit made up entirely of French Canadians — the 22nd Battalion — was formed. The regiment distinguished itself on all fronts and took part in decisive battles.

In 1921, King George V of England conferred upon it the title "Royal" in recognition of its soldiers' courage. The battalion, which still exists, has since been known as the Royal 22nd Regiment.

Enduring difficult conditions on the Western Front, Henri-Paul Lecorre took consolation in decorating his Rosalie — a contravention of army regulations. Using a pocket knife, he carved the names of the battles in which he fought — including Arras, Passchendaele, Courcelette, and Vimy — into the rifle. Having "damaged" it, he was obliged to reimburse the army for the cost of the weapon.

After losing his rifle during a gas attack in June 1918, Lecorre did not see his cherished Rosalie again ... until thirty-eight years later, when he spotted it in an exhibition of military artifacts in Lachute, Quebec.

This object resides at the Musée Royal 22e Régimentlink

Our 10 am Sunday Services congregation is growing!!

The services are a combination of Lutheran, United and Anglican pieces. Various people in attendance each Sunday, offer to read the different passages.

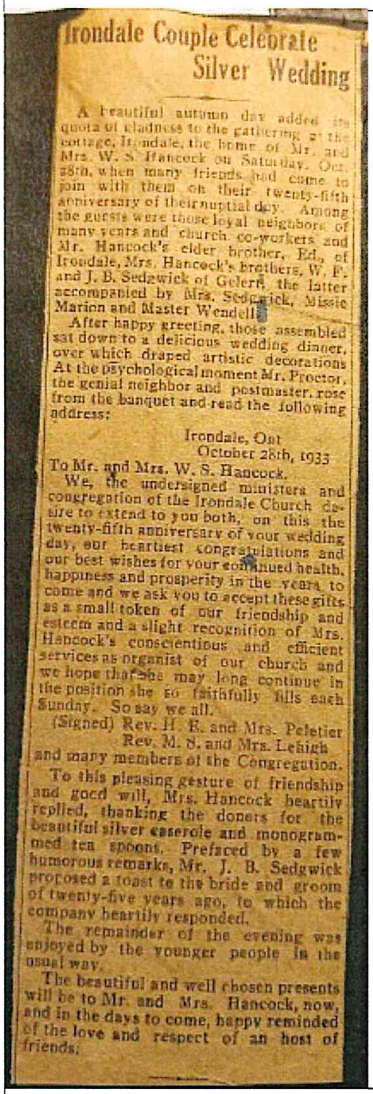
After the service, generally 45 mins long, we enjoy coffee and conversation.

Services generally run first Sunday in June to the last Sunday in September, however with the attendance growing, we have been asked to continue them. SO services will be held in the heated hall as long as we are able to access the door. Definitely depends on the amount of snow we get this winter.

To confirm whether service is being held or not—
text or call Carol at 705-457-8438

Consider joining us on a Sunday morning.

Come as you are—as often as you like.



Irondale Couple Celebrate Silver Wedding

A beautiful autumn day added its quota of gladness to the gathering at the cottage, Irondale, the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hancock on Saturday, Oct. 28th, when many friends had come to join with them on their twenty-fifth anniversary of their nuptial day. Among the guests were those loyal neighbors of many years and church co-workers and Mr. Hancock's elder brother, Ed., of Irondale, Mrs. Hancock's brothers, W. F. and J. B. Sedgwick of Gelert, the latter accompanied by Mrs. Sedgwick, Missie Marion and Master Wendell.

After happy greeting, those assembled sat down to a delicious wedding dinner, over which draped artistic decorations. At the psychological moment Mr. Proctor, the genial neighbor and postmaster, rose from the banquet and read the following address:

Irondale, Ont
October 28th, 1933

To Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hancock.

We, the undersigned ministers and congregation of the Irondale Church desire to extend to you both, on this the twenty-fifth anniversary of your wedding day, our heartiest congratulations and our best wishes for your continued health, happiness and prosperity in the years to come and we ask you to accept these gifts as a small token of our friendship and esteem and a slight recognition of Mrs. Hancock's conscientious and efficient services as organist of our church and we hope that she may long continue in the position she so faithfully fills each Sunday. So say we all.

(Signed) Rev. H. R. and Mrs. Peletier
Rev. M. S. and Mrs. Lehigh
and many members of the Congregation.

To this pleasing gesture of friendship and good will, Mrs. Hancock heartily replied, thanking the doners for the beautiful silver casserole and monogrammed tea spoons. Prefaced by a few humorous remarks, Mr. J. B. Sedgwick proposed a toast to the bride and groom of twenty-five years ago, to which the company heartily responded.

The remainder of the evening was enjoyed by the younger people in the usual way.

The beautiful and well chosen presents will be to Mr. and Mrs. Hancock, now, and in the days to come, happy reminded of the love and respect of an host of friends.

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Forwarded to me by our local genealogy group (HHGG) —found in scrapbook of Mr. Bill Francis

The Daughters' Garden is hosting a Make Your Own Christmas Planter event.

Have you always wanted to make your own planters but didn't know where to start? This fun class is perfect for spending quality time with girlfriends or family while creating your own work of art. The class includes 11" plastic container with soil, unique greens and a few surprise add-ons. Special extras will be available for purchase to make your Christmas planter extra special. Refreshments will be served.

Event will take place at the heated Irondale church hall... 1019 Elm Rd, Irondale

Cost $84.75 tax included.

Dates available are: Thurs Nov 13 at 1pm or Nov 13 at 6pm or Sat Nov 15 at 1pm

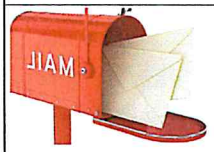
Call or message Helen 905-429-7544 or Marilyn 705-457-0346 to reserve your spot.

E-transfer Deposit of $25.00 to daughtersgarden5@gmail.com

RIB DINNER
Saturday, November 8
doors open 5pm — meal served 5:30ish
$25 per person
Beef Ribs, Potatoes, Vegetables, Salad, Dessert, Tea & Coffee

Tickets Limited

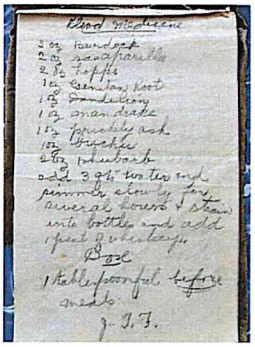
Tickets must be purchased ahead of time so we can be prepared.
Contact Carol 705-457-8438 or Linda 905-442-1794 to reserve yours.
Payment can be e-transferred to historical@IrondaleOntario.ca



From The Mailbox

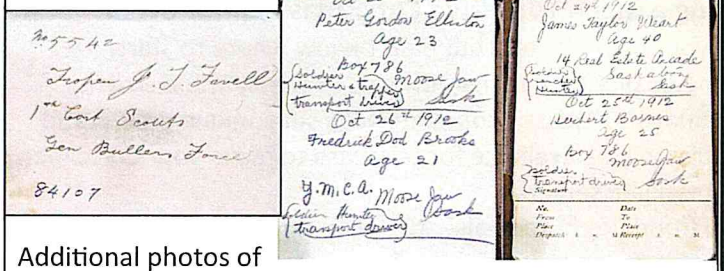
Thanks to those that supplied me with items this issue ...

Barbara Gordon writes *"I came across an interesting book while browsing the offerings at the New to You Yard Sale in Haliburton last weekend. Inside was this hand-written recipe.*
I thought I would share the recipe with your readers."



Blood Medicine
2 oz burdock
2 oz sarsaparilla
2 oz hopps
1 oz gentian root
1 oz dandelion
1 oz mandrake
1 oz prickly ash
1 oz buchu
2 oz rhubarb
Add 3 qts water and simmer slowly for several hours, strain into bottles and add 1 pint of whiskey.
Dose - 1 tablespoonful before meals.

Barbara writes "It turns out that the book was an Army Book from, I take it, the British War Office. Property of Trooper J. T. Favell, 1st Contingent Scouts, General Buller's Force. (General Buller, known for commanding British Forces during the Second Boer War.) There were a couple other names recorded as Soldier, Rancher, Hunter, Trapper, Transport Driver from Moose Jaw & Saskatoon."



Additional photos of the pages shown here... We wondered how the book came to be in a Haliburton Yard Sale.
We haven't found that answer yet—tho' be sure to check out the follow up in the Dec/Jan issue.

Paul Clement says "An interesting find was made while digging at the site of the Irondale Station on the old I.B.&O. rail line. I was hopeful I would find an artifact from the old railway and I was not disappointed! This spike being in the condition it is, suggests it is an original, c1887 and was the only one found in the 2 yds of soil that was excavated. The man that drove that spike would be 175 years old now! I thought readers might like to see it!"

Your editor adds ... Paul's home is the site of the original railway station.

A neighbour of Carol Simmons's in Minden recently made a new wood sign to hold the metal plate with the wording.

The old sign not repairable. There were extensive areas of rotted sections.

Irondale sends their thanks Barry. Great job.

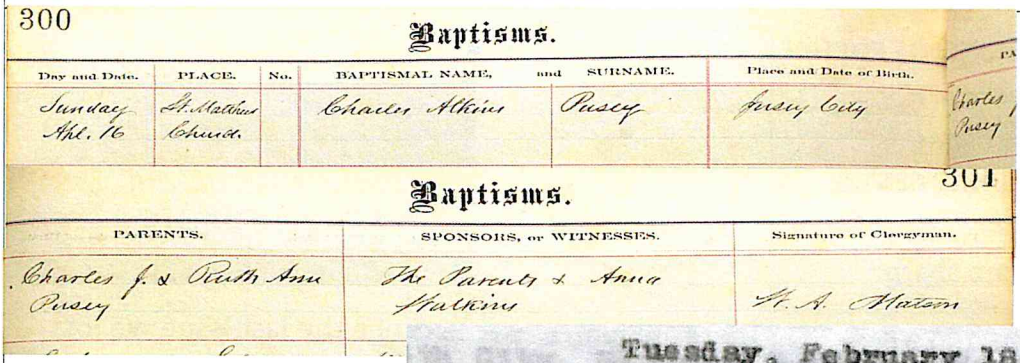
In 1880, Irish tenants created a powerful weapon without violence: complete social isolation of their landlord's agent.

When Charles Boycott refused their request for lower rent, no one would work, trade, or even deliver his mail.

This peaceful protect against a greedy landlord cost Britain £10,000 to harvest £500 worth of crops.

His name became the word we use today.

Facebook—The History Page



300

Baptisms.

Day and Date.	PLACE.	No.	BAPTISMAL NAME,	and SURNAME.	Place and Date of Birth.
Sunday Apl. 16	St. Matthias Church		Charles Atkins	Pusey	Pusey City

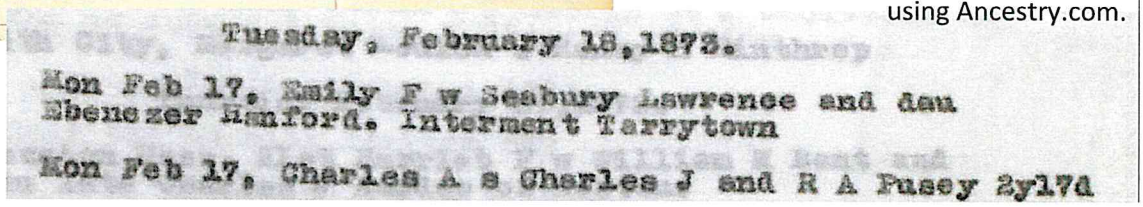
301

Baptisms.

PARENTS.	SPONSORS, or WITNESSES.	Signature of Clergyman.
Charles J. & Ruth Ann Pusey	The Parents & Anna Watkins	H. A. Watson

The pic on the left—
Charles J. & Ruth A. Pusey had a son Charles Atkin born 16 April 1871.
The picture below is a record of Charles Atkin Pusey's death on Feb 17 1873. He was just 2 yrs and 17 days old.

These pieces were found using Ancestry.com.



Tuesday, February 18, 1873.

Mon Feb 17, Emily F w Seabury Lawrence and dau Ebenezer Rumford. Interment Tarrytown

Mon Feb 17, Charles A s Charles J and R A Pusey 2y17d

U.S., Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704-1930 > New York > New York Evening Post

THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS GENEALOGY GROUP PRESENTS

SPEAKER SERIES 2025

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 21
7:00 P.M.

In The Footsteps of Heroes - Canadian WW2 Battlefields, Memorials & Cemeteries

Belinda Wilson joins us during this 80th Anniversary of the end of WW2 to share her Royal Canadian Legion Pilgrimage of Remembrance – a journey to Canadian battlefields, memorials, and cemeteries in northern France and Belgium, illustrated with photos, stories, and songs.

Free Admission | Refreshments available
Location: Minden Hills Cultural Centre
176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden, K0M 2K0
For more info, please contact hhggroup@gmail.com

In Partnership with
MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

We were very excited to be able to provide the ideal setting for the August 23, 2025 wedding of

Gerrit Kooistra and Kathryn Cristian

Gerrit and Kathryn exchanged their vows (written by themselves) in front of many family and friends.

The weather cooperated, with rain holding off until outdoor pictures were taken.

Service, Courage, & Sacrifice

Nov 8—11
10am to 4pm

1019 Elm Road, Irondale

Please note: New Dates for this year's exhibit

Be sure to visit to learn exciting news

More pictures, taken by their photographer, can be found at https://www.facebook.com/tim.tofflemire
Scroll down Tim's page to find the Aug 24 entry

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These are fun ....
Euchre with friends and neighbours.

Bingo get togethers are great fun on Tues nights

https://www.frequencynews.ca/location/haliburton/
Search Irondale—to find two interviews done in our area
Plus lots of other great topics

with heartfelt sympathy

Since the last issue we lost a member of our community.

~

Marilyn Billings
August 10, 2025
mother of Marilyn Graham,
gr grandma of Ethan Keefer
Librarian, loved history

~

You may be gone,
but certainly not forgotten.

A conversation over coffee after church
one Sunday, Barbara Gordon offered this recipe as something quick and oh so good. Apparently something from one of Shakespeare's plays.

POSSET

2 large unwaxed lemons, cleaned and whole
2/3 cup superfine sugar
2 cups double cream, or heavy cream
1 cup raspberries, for garnish

Pour 1/2 cup of lemon juice into a small saucepan. Add the grated zest and the superfine sugar. Stir well to combine and bring the mixture to a slow, gentle simmer. Remove from heat and reserve.
In a medium-sized pot, bring the cream to a gentle boil over low heat. Make sure to cook the cream slowly, as a fast boil will spoil the cream and split it. Remove from heat. Slowly whisk the lemon syrup into the hot cream. If preferred, strain the mixture into a clean measuring cup, or leave it as is. Let the posset cool slightly and pour into small ramekins or glasses. Bring to room temperature. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours and up to overnight. The cream will become silky and thick.

I can't wait for the opportunity to try this recipe!!

Shakespeare's plays are full of references to food and cookery, but they're not always very appetizing. Check out this link to learn more
https://www.folger.edu/blogs/shakespeare-and-beyond/posset-shakespeare-recipes/

Patricia's Trivia — Test Your Brain Cells

1. What is entomophobia a fear of?
2. What diamond also called the Star of Africa, sits in the British Royal Sceptre?
3. What territory made up one third of Canada between 1670 and 1870?
4. Who won a best actor Oscar for the 2001 cop thriller 'Training Day'?
5. What month's birth stone is the sapphire?
6. What geographical term in the arctic means 'treeless plain'?
7. What in our solar system has a core temperature of 15 million Celsius?
8. In what sport did Canada's Lesley Thompson-Willie win five Summer Olympic medals?
9. What was Viking explorer Leif the Lucky's full name?
10. What does OMW mean in texting lingo?
11. Who was the first wife of Henry VIII to be beheaded?
12. Besides protons, what two other components make up an atom?
13. What was the spaceship on Star Trek called?
14. What is twice the radius of a circle called?

Answers found elsewhere in this issue.

Wishing the following better health ...
Robert Hancock
Gordon Graham
Ron Graham
Linda Code

Our work is often like watching an iceberg.
People only see what is visible.
Beneath the surface, day in and day out,
we are consistently doing something to save Irondale's history.

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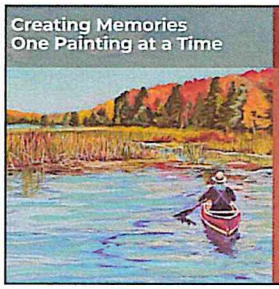
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Susie's Musings

The Bravest think I ever did was continuing my life when I wanted to die.

Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow.
Just walk beside me and be my friend.

Time decides who you meet in life, your heart decides who you want in your life, and your behaviour decides who stays in your life.

This year I was tested more than ever. I lost a lot, but I also won. I failed, I cried, I laughed, I learned, I loved, but more of all, I'm still here. I did not break.

Patricia's Trivia Answers — How did you do?

1) insects; 2) Cullinan; 3) Rupert's Land; 4) Denzel Washington; 5) September; 6) tundra; 7) the sun; 8) rowing; 9) Lief Erikson; 10) on my way; 11) Anne Boleyn; 12) electrons & neutrons; 13) The USS Enterprise; 14) diameter

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Stay informed of Haliburton County issues with these local papers - available at most stores

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY | The Times MINDEN ONTARIO | County Life Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands | The Highlander

~ Irondale Calendar of Events ~

2025	**Unless otherwise noted -** **Tickets available email irondalehistory@gmail.com or call/text 705-457-8438**
Oct 21	**In the Footsteps of Heroes—Canadian WW2 Battlefields, Memorials & Cemeteries.** This is an excellent opportunity to travel to France and Belgium. Belinda Wilson's photographs are poignant and round out her presentation beautifully. See pg 4 for location and time.
Nov 8	**Themed Dinner** - Doors open at 5pm with dinner served at 5:30pm. **Irondale Community Centre** You won't go away hungry. $25 per person. Proceeds to Irondale's history.
Nov 8—11 **Note only one weekend**	**Service, Courage & Sacrifice -** 10am to 4pm each day - a display of flags of those brave individuals associated with Irondale, that served Canada in various aspects of war. Wander the grounds in remembrance, visit indoor displays of military memorabilia. FREE ADMISSION **See insert for puzzle to enter for a possible prize.**

Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group had Paul Morrisette speak to the membership on several occasions - *History of Sports in Haliburton County.* I am not a sports fan in any form - however I really enjoyed Paul's talks. His presentation covering Hockey in the Highlands actually had to be presented in two parts. There was so much information to share.

The photo above is of the Haliburton Huskies team in 1964. They played all over Central Ontario. You may recognize some in the photo;
Back row (l to r) Ken Sawyer (trainer), Mike Morrison, Bill Parish, Mike Easton, Ron Stackhouse, Brian Black, Gary Gartshore, Doug Higgins, Scott Larue (coach)
Front row (l to r) Ab Larue (owner/mgr), George Simmons, Fred Hewitt, Larry Sawyer, Neil Hewitt, Larry Harton, Lyle Sawyer, Chris Garrol, Mike Jackson.

Photo was taken from the book titled "There is Something About This Place" by Charlie Teljeur. Interesting to note, George could name 5 or 6 from the league that went on to play professional hockey.